

## VULVOSCOPY

Vulvoscopy is an investigation performed in a gynaecological chair, during which skin changes of the external genitalia are examined using an optical device that allows magnification. The investigation lasts for approximately 20 minutes.

A 3% acetic acid solution is used to reveal skin changes, which may cause a slight tingling sensation. If necessary, the doctor performing the study will take a small tissue from the skin of the external genitalia, which will be sent to histological examination. Before the tissue sample is collected, an anaesthetic will be injected to the location on the skin, where the sample will be taken from. The wound is usually closed with a self-absorbing suture.

Pain and swelling as well as minor bleeding in the wound site may occur in the first days following the procedure. Pain medications should be used when necessary, for example ibuprofen 400-600 mg three times a day. It takes about 10-14 days for the wound to heal, so during this time, having sexual intercourse, taking a bath and swimming is not recommended. The histology results for the tissue sample collected will arrive within approximately two weeks.

Complications are rare in vulvoscopy. Very rarely, an allergic reaction to the anaesthetic medication administered may occur. If a tissue sample has been collected during the investigation, complications may include inflammation and bleeding. In case of severe pain, redness and swelling in the wound area or in case of heavy bleeding from the wound area, it is recommended to turn to an emergency consultation with a gynaecologist.

A referral is needed to perform the investigation. This investigation cannot be performed during menstruation or in case of bleeding from the vagina. Starting from the evening prior to the investigation, it is not recommended to apply greasy or oily substances to the genital area.